

W. Graham Arader III

Historically important and aesthetically pleasing
maps, books and prints in the finest condition

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Loans & Purchases

18 September 1984

Neil K. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

Chairman
CIA Fine Arts Commission
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

W. Graham Arader III
Rare maps, books and prints

1000 Boxwood Court
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406
(215) 825-6570

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have recently dismantled an unusually fine copy of Audubon's so-called "other book"---The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America (New York, 1845-1848)---and thought it appropriate to offer the agency some of the Imperial Folio lithographs (in exceptionally fine original color) of animals that it contains.

I do hope you will not think it undue levity on my part to suggest you might be especially interested in purchasing the four plates of moles from this important colorplate work.

Although this might at first seem frivolous, I believe the high intellectual caliber of agency employees such that they would get a kick out of the subtle play on the term popularly associated with the intelligence community. This, after all, is one of the things good art is about.

And these pictures are good art. Not only are they representative examples from the great first edition of the most important American 19th century work of natural history by the artist whose name is a byword in the study of zoological illustration and conservation, but they are beautiful and pleasing landscapes in the best national tradition.

Since most of our customers snap off the more exciting animals, such as the deer and the foxes, the plates of small creatures remain extremely inexpensive. I daresay there is no greater bargain in traditional American art. Three of the four moles are only \$145 each, unframed, compared to, say, \$6,750 for the Armadillo from the same book. The most expensive, the Common American Moles, which shows a farm and mill in the background, is only \$250.

I am particularly fond of Townsend's Shrew Mole, again at \$145, which shows three of the creatures, one belly-up (but not dead). I think he would look swell in the corridor near the director's office.

We are the largest dealer in rare prints in the country, and have had previous dealings with the White House and the Department of State.

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We are, as you likely already know or will after you check, quite reputable and generally well below our competitors on the prices of Audubon prints. We also have a fine frame shop and could arrange to place these pictures in archival treatments to museum specifications should you opt for them.

Again, I think that if the committee gives some thought to this light-hearted proposal instead of rejecting it out of hand, you might find this offer particularly apropos. I would be delighted to provide additional details on each of the plates of moles, or any other prints which might interest you.

Sincerely yours,



Neil K. Fitzgerald

NKF/as